

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5798

INFO USMISSION BRUSSELS

USNATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EI

SUBJECT: FIANNA FAIL/ GAULLIST PLAN FOR EUROPEAN UNITY

1. TWO LEADING FIGURES OF FIANNA FAIL PARTY HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN MAY 8 TO EXPLAIN PROPOSAL THEY HAVE WORKED OUT JOINTLY WITH GAULLIST MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. FIANNA FAIL IS LARGEST IRISH PARTY AND FORMS ONLY SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION IN DAIL. WITH GAULLISTS, FIANNA FAIL FORMS BLOC CALLED " EUROPEAN PROGRESS-IVE DEMOCRATS" IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. EPD GROUP HAS JUST HELD CONFERENCE IN CORSICA, WHICH APPARENTLY PRODUCED PROPOSAL NOW ANNOUNCED.

2. FROM CONFUSED NEWSPAPER REPORTS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE MAIN
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ELEMENTS OF EPD PLAN, THOUGH WE COULD PROBABLY OBTAIN DETAILS IF

PROPOSAL SEEMS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, EPD PROPOSES CREATION OF A "POLITICAL SECRETARIAT" TO ACCELERATE POLITICAL COOPERATION AND EXPRESS POLITICAL IDENTITY OF EUROPE. (LOCATION OF PROPOSED SECRETARIAT IS NOT SPECIFIED, BUT WE BET ON PARIS.) SECRETARIAT WOULD BE ATTACHED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A NEW, HIGH-LEVEL " EUROPEAN AUTHORITY" CONSISTING OF AN EXECUTIVE DRAWN FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND A PARLIAMENT. SOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WOULD ALSO BE CHOSEN BY STATES, BUT OTHERS WOULD BE DIRECTLY ELECTED. FIANNA FAIL SPEAKERS DESCRIBE THIS AS A GRADUAL APPROACH TOWARDS A FEDERAL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT WITH A PARLIAMENT ELECTED DIRECTLY BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY PARIS MAY GET BETTER PICTURE OF EPD PROPOSAL, TO WHICH GAULLISTS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN IRISH. NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER PROPOSAL IS REALLY INTENDED TO BE A STEP TOWARD UNIFIED EUROPE WITH DIRECT POPULAR ELECTIONS OR A SCHEME FOR APPEARING TO MAKE PROGRESS WHILE RETAINING A FULL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. SUGGESTION OF PARTIAL DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS INTERESTING.

4. IN TERMS OF IRISH DOMESTIC POLITICS, PLAN MAY BE AIMED AT DEMONSTRATING THAT GAULLIST/FIANNA FAIL BLOC IS NOT THE ABSURDITY SOME JOURNALISTS HAVE PERCEIVED. FIANNA FAIL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM THAT THEY HAD TO SETTLE FOR ALLIANCE WITH GAULLISTS BECAUSE NO OTHER OPTIONS WERE AVAILABLE. TO EXTENT THAT FIANNA FAIL/GAULLIST ALLIANCE SOLIDIFIES, ANY ALTERNATIVE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE EVEN MORE FRANCOPHILE THAN CURRENT ONE.
MOORE

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